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CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS SUBMITTED BY STATES PARTIES UNDER ARTICLE 18 OF THE CONVENTION

Third periodic reports of States parties

YEMEN*

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FOREWORD

1. Since it ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women in May 1984, the Republic of Yemen has made every effort to provide all the means and facilities available to it, in order to implement women's rights and to achieve real equality between men and women, through all the government and popular agencies.

2. This report covers all measures taken so far, since our country's ratification of the Convention, regarding all the articles of the Convention, and an evaluation of progress achieved to date in the elimination of discrimination against women. It also covers resultant changes in the status of women as regards equality, and difficulties faced by women in the process of participation in all fields of life, alongside men.

3. The report contains information on Yemeni women, their status in Yemeni society, and efforts made by the country to eliminate inherited forms of discrimination against women. It also deals with issues relevant to various articles of the Convention, in the following domains:

1. Constitutional legislation and laws passed in the Republic of Yemen;

2. Measures taken to establish the role of women in the various fields of life in society;

3. Inherited and emerging difficulties and obstacles impeding the implementation of measures and procedures.

I. INTRODUCTION

4. The Republic of Yemen lies in the southern part of the Arabian Peninsula, between latitudes 12° and 20° north of the equator, and between longitudes 41° and 54° east of Greenwich. It has an area of 555,000 km^2 (not counting the "empty quarter"). It is bounded on the north by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, on the south by the Arabian Sea and the Gulf of Aden, by Oman on the east, and by the Red Sea on the west.

II. POPULATION AND POPULATION DENSITY BY ADMINISTRATION DIVISIONS

5. According to the latest census, held in 1986 for the northern governorates and in 1988 for the southern ones, the population of Yemen is 11,448,031, including persons living abroad on the night of the census base date. The population is distributed throughout 17 governorates comprising a total of 238 provinces. In order of population size, the governorates are: Sanaa, Taizz, Ibb, Hodeida, Hajjah, Dhamar, Hadramaut, Lahej, Aden, Al-Bayda, Saada, Abyan, Al-Mahwit, Shabwa, Maarib, Al-Maharah and Al-Jauf. The population density varies from one governorate to another, but the average population density country-wide is approximately 21 persons per square kilometre.

III. TOPOGRAPHY

6. Yemen can be topographically divided into five areas: mountainous, hilly, coastal, the "empty quarter", the Yemeni islands.

7. The mountains run in a north-south direction, parallel to the Red Sea, and on an east-west axis parallel to the Gulf of Aden, roughly in the shape of a capital "L". Water flows from these mountains in easterly, westerly and southerly directions, down "wadis", or valleys.

8. The chain of mountains is interspersed throughout its length with basins and catchments where it is possible to construct flood barriers and dams, from which irrigation canals carry water to extensive areas of agricultural land.

9. The hilly areas lie to the east and north of the mountainous regions, and stretch as far as the "empty quarter", declining gradually in altitude.

10. The coastal plains run along the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden, from the Omani border south-west to the Straits of Bab al-Mandab, then north as far as the Saudi border. They are about 2,000 km. long, and vary in width from 20 to 60 km.

11. The "empty quarter" is part of the Yemeni Desert, with very sparse vegetation. There are some oases where agriculture is possible. It is populated by nomadic Bedouin.

12. The Yemeni islands are scattered in the Red Sea and the Arabian Sea, mostly in the former. They have their own particular climate and environment. The largest of those off Yemen's Red Sea coast is Kamaran, which is populated. Perim is another of the Red Sea group, strategically important as it controls the Straits of Bab al-Mandab. The largest and most important of the Arabian Sea islands is Socotra.

IV. POPULATION STRUCTURE BY SEX AND AGE

13. The population of Yemen is young, due to the large 0-14 age group. The population pyramid therefore has a wide base but a very narrow summit. Table 2 shows the development of the population's age structure for the years 1988, 1989 and 1990. It shows that the under-fifteen age group (0-14) represented about 53.3 per cent of the total population in 1990, while the 15-64 age group accounted for 43.3 per cent, and the over-65 age group represented 3.3 per cent. Slightly over one half of the population is under 15 years of age. This constitutes one of the country's serious population problems, as the high proportion of young people dependent on others requires a high rate of expenditure for various services (health, nutrition, education, entertainment, etc.). This age group is in fact a consumer group, reliant on others.

14. Table 3 shows population distribution by gender and age groups. It also shows that about 53 per cent of the 0-14 age group were male and about 48 per cent were female in 1990, almost the same as the ratio for the 15-64 age group. This means that women represent approximately half the human resources (in the 15-64 age group).

15. The Republic of Yemen was declared on 22 May 1990, after the reunification of the country and the end of the separation which had existed between its northern and southern parts, due to the hegemony of two odious regimes, that of the despotic Imamate and the hateful British colonization.

16. At the beginning of the 1970s, which witnessed the birth of a period of economic and political stability, Yemen entered a new phase of demographic change, with a noticeable departure from traditional population patterns represented by a high birth rate and a drop in mortality. The crude birth rate rose to 46 per thousand in 1970-1975, with a concurrent drop in the mortality rate to about 34 per thousand. At the same time, life expectancy at birth rose to about 40. This period saw an increase in the natural rate of population growth that peaked in the 1980s at an estimated 3.1 per cent. The overall fertility rate also rose from about 7 births per female in 1970-1975 to about 8.26 births per female, according to the 1986 census. This was accompanied by an increase of life expectancy at birth to 46 in 1988.

17. Fertility was not a problem by comparison with the high mortality rate, which was Yemeni society's main concern. Natural fertilization was at its highest possible level, and certain statistical estimates indicate that the crude birth rate was between 43 and 46 per thousand at the beginning of the 1950s. The high birth rate was a natural reaction to the high mortality rate, estimated by some statistical sources to have been between 33 and 35 per thousand or more during the same period. As with all traditional societies, this was an expression of the Yemenis' instinctive will to survive. Nevertheless, this high rate of fertility never reached its maximum biological and physiological level for numerous reasons. These included economic, health, social and cultural factors which were a severe constraint on Yemeni women's fertility. At that time, the population lived in a semi-settled state. The total population did not exceed four million, living in an area far exceeding Yemen's present political territory (550,000 km^2). This procreative behaviour permeated the depths of the social, cultural and economic structure, blending into the system of popular traditions, customs and conventions.

V. ROLE OF WOMEN

18. Throughout history, women and their role and status in society have always been - and still are - a yardstick of social progress. The history of women's struggle for human dignity and the right to work and to self-determination goes back thousands of years. The laws and morality of exploitative societies placed women in a position of subordination to men. They were exposed to discrimination and humiliation. Ever since the beginning of the era of slavery class divisions became apparent, and distinctions emerged among people. One of these distinctions applied to men and women, and so, instead of occupying a prominent position in social and economic life, women were relegated to a secondary role, while men acquired a leadership status. There was a shift from a matriarchal society to a patriarchal one, and women became exposed to two forms of persecution: by the exploitative ruling social classes, and by men. The obscurantism and ignorance of men and their isolation from the rest of the world led to a widening of the gap separating them from women. Their relationship became one of ruler and ruled; women were weak creatures, deficient in mind, religion and principle. They had nothing to look forward to but marriage and the grave.

19. Matters were not much different under colonial domination, with women in the same situation as their sisters in the northern part of the country, fettered in a manner unworthy of the status of a human being with an independent identity and an effective presence. They were isolated from participation in general social activities, and could have relative freedom of movement only if they went out to the workplace. Women suffered greatly, looked upon as they were as chattels for pleasure, reproduction and domestic service.

20. Illiteracy was rife among women; their lives were bound to those of men, through marriage and until their final resting place. This was the only role they knew. This bleak picture illustrates the extent of the helplessness, feebleness and weakness long suffered by women, morally and materially. They had no opportunities to develop their abilities and capabilities, in order to face life positively and with confidence.

21. Then came the Glorious Revolutions of 26 September and 14 October, which believed in the role to be played by women in motivating Yemeni society and restoring its great civilization. They opened doors hitherto closed to Yemeni women, and allowed them into the arena of life, to reflect their personality through their knowledge and endeavour, with an emphasis on a number of special aspects indicative of a better and higher status for women at the social, cultural and political levels.

22. In the era of the two Glorious Revolutions there has been an emphasis on the role of the family as the core of society and the foundation of the structure of the future. They have striven to raise the health, social and intellectual levels of the family, by devoting attention to women and to mothers and with the establishment of many mother and child-care centres and the training of supervisors for these centres.

23. The centres make a valuable contribution by undertaking regular checkups of pregnant women, by examining women who wish to practice birth control, and distributing birth control devices free of charge. This enables mothers to bring up their children with appropriate spacing between births.

24. The establishment of social welfare centres for women has been encouraged; their function is to raise the level of awareness of Yemeni women, and to educate them socially and in health matters. This is accomplished through the information media, in cooperation with the competent administrative authorities, to enable women to play their role in society in a better manner, to combat negative habits, and to instill human values and a national consciousness. In addition, courses have been organized on literacy, sewing, embroidery and typing.

VI. LEGISLATION

25. A number of laws have been passed giving women equal rights with men. The Constitution of Yemen confirms this commitment. There are no provisions contradictory to the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and other international conventions and declarations. When Yemeni legislators drafted these laws, they adhered to the texts of the Constitution and those of international conventions and declarations, particularly those ratified by Yemen. A number of laws have already been issued, while many more are going through the constitutional procedure for promulgation.

26. These laws govern various constitutional rights, which are guaranteed without any distinction between men and women - as regards the right to work, health care, social security and education. These laws or draft laws include general and specific provisions that govern men and women alike, although certain articles are specifically concerned with women. This does not imply a derogation of their rights, but rather is aimed at giving further consideration and attention to women's special circumstances, and at providing additional guarantees of their rights.

27. For example, Civil Service Law 19 of 1991 stipulates that the principle governing the occupation of a public post rests on equality of opportunity and equal rights for all citizens, without any distinction. The State guarantees the means to control the application of this principle Article 12 (c) of this law is comprehensive, in that it applies to both men and women as regards equality of opportunity, while other articles give women special privileges. Article 48, for example, reduces the working hours of pregnant women and nursing mothers, stipulating that they must not exceed four hours a day from the sixth month of pregnancy, and five hours a day for nursing mothers until the infant is six months old. The Law also gives pregnant women special paid leave, with retention of the full right to normal leave. Article 59 stipulates that a pregnant woman employee has the right to maternity leave at full pay for 60 continuous days before and after delivery, and 20 days in addition to the number of days stipulated in paragraph (1) of this article if the delivery is complicated or if twins are delivered.

28. Other articles of this law give additional rights, such as the right to special leave at full pay, not counted against the annual leave entitlement, for a maximum of 40 days in the event of a husband's death.

29. The draft Labour Law contains a chapter specifically on women's employment. It stipulates that men and women are equal with regard to all conditions, rights, duties and relations of employment, without distinction. Equality also applies to employment, promotion, wages, training, job qualification and social security, in addition to certain rights stipulated in the draft law, such as working hours of pregnant women and nursing mothers, maternity leave, and prohibition of the employment of women in harmful occupations, night work and overtime.

30. Law 25 of 1991 on Social Security and Pensions gives men and women equal rights in this regard. As with the Civil Service Law and the draft Labour Law, it also has special provisions related to women's physiology, social status and household responsibilities. Its provisions cover the rights of men and women to pensions upon retirement, and specify the different ages and periods of service required for various pension entitlements.

31. The achievements of Yemeni women since the early days of independence and following the Revolutions are truly remarkable. The Revolutions put an end to the shameful situation suffered by women. The Constitution and various laws have done away with the era of the concept of the harem and have liberated women from the stereotyped attitude of society. They have opened the way to women to participate in the economic, social and political life of the country. Women have entered the workplace and are engaged in a full range of productive activities, from operating machines to the service sectors.

32. Female workers represented 3.3 per cent of the total registered labour force in Aden Colony on the eve of independence, whereas they now represent not less than 30 per cent of the total, in the public, cooperative and mixed sectors.

33. Yemeni society is witnessing many transformations, the greatest of which is perhaps that which occurred with the achievement of the country's unity and the establishment of the united State of Yemen on 22 May 1990, particularly after the adoption of the National Constitution on 22 May 1991.

VII. APPLICATION OF THE CONVENTION

Article 1 of the Convention

34. The legislation of the Republic of Yemen includes all the changes related to the establishment of the unified State, which should bring about a further expansion of women's rights and the elimination of all legal forms of discrimination. The Constitution guarantees equality of general rights and duties to all the people, without distinction between men and women. Article 37 stipulates that all citizens are equal before the law. They are equal as regards general rights and duties without any distinction based on gender.

35. The Constitution thereby guarantees women all political, economic and cultural rights on an equal footing with men, including the right to be nominated for high State positions, such as the Council of Deputies, and to occupy public posts.

36. Other provisions of the Constitution also prohibit gender-based discrimination in various fields. Article 19, for example, stipulates that the State guarantees equality of opportunity to all citizens in the political, economic, social and cultural domains, and that laws shall be issued to that effect.

Articles 2 and 3 of the Convention

37. The provisions of the laws below guarantee a number of aspects concerning:

- Legislative discrimination;
- Actual discrimination in daily life;
- Commitment by the parties to take all necessary measures to eliminate all forms of such discrimination.

38. The status of women has undergone changes which can best be described as radical. They have obtained many of their social rights, such as the right to employment and to education, inter alia, in addition to political rights as represented by the right to vote and to election. This reflects the bright aspects of women's liberation and their emergence from the shadows of the remnants of the past. Women have achieved much in the realms of education, the economy and politics, even though the decisions which translated these positive aspects into reality came from above in most cases.

39. Such achievements were closely linked to national independence, which required the definition of a clear attitude towards the status of women and their political, economic and social rights. The establishment of a constitutional system was one of the urgent tasks to be accomplished after the declaration of the Republic of Yemen on 22 May 1990. It gave a real basis to the participation of women and asserted women's rights to employment and education and their equality with men. Other rights included the right to plan political, economic, social and cultural life.

40. All this took concrete form in the Constitution and other laws, establishing the constitutional rights of Yemeni women. The Constitutional principles were then embodied in laws governing various aspects of life, to firmly establish the equality of women and to eliminate discrimination against them. The most important of the laws are:

1. Judicial Authority Law 1 of 1990;
2. General Elections Law 41 of 1992;
3. Civil Service Law 19 of 1991;
4. Social Security Law 26 of 1991;
5. Political Parties and Organizations Law 16 of 1991;
6. Social Security and Pensions Law 25 of 1991;
7. Law 2 of 1991 on the Diplomatic and Consular Corps;
8. Prisons Organization Law 48 of 1991;
9. Law 20 of 1991 on the Issuance of Diplomatic, Special and Mission Passports;
10. Civil Affairs and Civil Register Law 23 of 1991;
11. Nationality Law 6 of 1990;
12. Law 25 of 1990 on the Press and Publications;
13. Criminal Procedure Law (draft Penal Code);
14. Draft Education Law;
15. Draft Health Law;
16. Draft Social Assistance Law;
17. Draft Labour Law.

41. It is very clear that the economic and social rights achieved by women have guaranteed that they receive wages commensurate with the quantity and type of work they perform, and that they participate in the planning and administration of the affairs of the national economy. They receive training and vocational training, as prerequisites of economic and social development.

They have the right to free and leisure time, to health care, employment protection, welfare in old age and in the event of total or partial disability preventing work, and financial security in the event of sickness or the loss of the supporter.

42. In this respect, Social Security and Pensions Law 25 and Law 26 of 1991 are particularly concerned with ensuring the social rights of workers, regardless of gender. They stipulate the regulations governing retirement, job-related injuries, social security benefits, the proportions of pensions payable in the event of death or disability, funeral expenses, and other regulations. Minimum actual service is also defined for Yemeni women, for retirement purposes, as of reaching 16 years of age. Retirement is compulsory at any appropriate time after 55 years of age. Article 10 of the same law provides for the retirement of working women at their request after 25 years of actual service, regardless of age, and after 20 years of actual service at 46 years of age, or after 10 years of actual service upon reaching 55 years of age. It is noticeable that this law does not take into consideration actual facts of life, namely actual life expectancy in Yemen due to factors such as the climate, nutrition and the environment.

43. As regards cultural rights, article 37 of the Constitution stipulates that education for all is a right guaranteed by the State. This applies to all schools and cultural and educational institutions. The State is particularly concerned with the care of youth, protecting them from deviation. It provides them with religious, intellectual and physical education, and creates circumstances appropriate to their development in all fields.

44. Women accordingly have educational and training opportunities, a situation which has contributed to improving the national economy and various State institutions. Qualified women are to be found in all fields: there are women doctors, engineers, lawyers and university professors. This has been paralleled by women obtaining a range of rights, including political rights, such as the right to vote and to stand for office in local councils or elected councils. The right of the working population to exercise political authority in the country guarantees women political rights, assuring them of participation in social and political life and in State affairs and those of society. Other rights include the right to associate and to membership in people's organizations, including unions. Article 126 of Civil Service Law 19 grants employees the right to organize and to join professional unions and associations aimed at determining and defending their rights, in accordance with the law governing unions and cooperative societies. This is not subject to the obligations arising from the status or nature of the occupation. Article 128 stresses the principle of voluntary membership of unions, and employees cannot be forced or coerced to join or to renounce membership, nor is discrimination permitted against them for joining or not.

45. Women's political rights are also embodied in their right to judicial protection if their personal freedom and property are violated. They have the right to complain and to claim compensation for damages resulting from acts in contravention of the law. This is accomplished through court action, as a means of defending a right which has been violated or whose violation is threatened, on the basis of articles 8 and 11 of the Civil Procedure Law. This grants citizens the right to have recourse to the courts, by taking court action as the legal means to defend rights, regardless of race, origin,

language, religious or ideological belief, social category, level of education or status in society.

46. It must nevertheless be said that, in spite of the constitutional or legal rights achieved by Yemeni women, the prevalent attitude towards women is still influenced by attitudes whose origins lie in the depths of the cultural and historical past, attitudes that view women merely as an object, or as a sex object. It is easy to build anything, but to build people free of all complexes and obsolete values, of all inherited negative traditions, armed with new values and principles, in the process of applying some laws, is indeed an arduous task. It requires effort and much time, and is dependent on the level of awareness and development of society, and a complete absorption of women's issues, as an inseparable part of the type of society aspired to by Yemen.

47. It is also a fact that there have been certain achievements for women in both the north and the south. In what was previously known as the northern part of the country there are situations which are developed, in comparison with the former era, at the social, labour and educational levels. In the former southern part, women have made considerable gains and have obtained numerous guarantees in various domains of life, given by various laws, measures and procedures.

Article 4 of the Convention

48. The State has adopted a number of measures aimed at implementing programmes which are based on the creation of appropriate mechanisms and the establishment of specific projects, with the objective of encouraging equality in all sectors of the economy, society and the family, and especially in the sectors of labour, education, health and health care, through the formulation of development projects with support from a number of foreign financing agencies and international organizations, including the United Nations Fund for Population Activities and the Project on Women, Development and Population. Other measures include:

- Training women in leadership positions in the various ministries in coordination, policy planning and programmes for women, population and development;

- Training of personnel in the General Directorate for Women's and Children's Affairs in planning, implementing and evaluating projects;

- Training female cadres in decision-making at the central level and that of governorate committees;

- Attraction of the largest possible number of youth of both genders interested in issues concerning women, population and development;

- Promotion of legal awareness of members of the Yemen Women's Union (the Women's Society previously), as well as women working in service and production enterprises and housewives, and acquainting them with their legal status under the legislation of the Republic of Yemen;

- Improving women's abilities and skills by integrating women in development, as an effective element in all economic, social and cultural domains;

- Undertaking studies and research;

- Honouring the foremost Yemeni women;

- Organizing seminars, conferences and workshops;

- Organizing training courses to improve the efficiency of Yemeni women;

- Production of cultural programmes aimed at changing the limited attitude of society to women and the view that they are unable to participate in the process of economic and social development;

- Publishing a series of booklets.

Project for support of Yemeni women's societies

49. The Government of Yemen obtained assistance from the Government of the Netherlands, to support and finance a number of programmes aimed at improving the status of Yemeni women, such as the project on support for Yemeni women's societies, which aims specifically at supporting the activities of these societies in the cities of Taizz, Hodeida and Dhamar, through:

- Support for the income-generating sewing programme, through training and assistance in obtaining materials and equipment, administrative supervision, etc.;

- Assistance in strengthening the administration and administrative capabilities of the women's societies, through technical training in general administration, and the plan of action for support of the societies' projects;

- Training and advice on the development of kindergartens in the women's societies;

- Training and assistance in the field of handicrafts and sewing;

- Training in the field of eradication of illiteracy.

National Productive Families Programme

50. The Productive Families Programme differs from other types of social work in that it has overlapping developmental, economic and social dimensions, the achievement of one of which leads to the achievement of another, at all levels: individual, family and society. The objectives of the Programme are:

- To help limited-income families to improve their incomes and raise their standard of living, through engagement of one or more of their members in productive work;

- To encourage the establishment and development of small-scale cottage industries, to gradually share in satisfying some local market requirements;

- To create new, appropriate job opportunities for the unemployed, especially women, while ensuring that they take into consideration customs and traditions of Yemeni society;

- To assist and support skilled craftsmen financially unable to expand their activities;

- To revive and develop certain traditional industries, trades and crafts which represent part of the country's heritage and preserve them from extinction;

- To enable the largest possible number of active members of society who have no handicaps to work and participate in the overall process of development through which society is going;

- To apply the principles of social justice and solidarity among the members of society, and to firmly establish confidence and a sense of belonging in the individual vis-à-vis the State.

Beneficiaries: 118 families

Areas of implementation of the project: Sanaa, Taizz, Hodeida, Ibb

Financing agencies:

(a) Government;

(b) Arab Fund for Social Work.

Article 5 of the Convention

51. The facts indicate that the situation of Yemeni women in eras prior to the Revolutions of September and October, under the influence of backward and obstructive customs and traditions and the policies of both the Imamate and colonialism which consecrated such concepts, did not give them the right to express opinions or take decisions or bear any responsibility other than that of caring for the family.

52. They did not have the right to bear witness or to make any legal contract. Now, following the two glorious Revolutions, the attitude according to which women were considered deficient has disappeared.

53. After having reviewed all the articles of the Convention, we find that it is in harmony with these laws and this legislation. There is no discrimination between men and women; both are treated equally and have the same rights and duties.

54. As regards article 5, we find that prejudices and customary and all other practices which are based on the idea of the inferiority or the superiority of either of the sexes or on stereotyped roles for men and women, which were prevalent prior to the two glorious Revolutions, receded even before the

issuance of the Education Law which amended the previous structure and emphasized the importance of co-education at all levels. The education network spread, to encompass many rural areas, and even reached the territories of the nomadic Bedouin in the far reaches of the country. Thanks to this appropriate formal education policy, the Republic of Yemen progressed, and old concepts and ideas which obstructed the advancement of women, based on the inferiority or superiority of either of the sexes, were swept away. This policy was extended to encompass all educational establishments, at all levels. To sum up, co-education has brought about significant progress and a change from negative attitudes and concepts.

55. One of the factors that have helped the widespread participation of Yemeni women in the economic, social and cultural life of the country is the concern of the political leadership and the Government and their understanding of women's issues. They have given women the opportunity to increase their participation and improve their status in various domains, especially education and employment. Women have received their share of the benefits of the development of Yemen and the total integration of women in development and their participation in all the programmes and activities taking place in society have been ensured.

56. It should be noted, when considering the articles of the Convention, that the implementation of these tasks is easier when working with the younger generations, in both urban and rural areas. There are some difficulties with the older generations, for the following reasons:

- Widespread illiteracy among the elderly;

- Insufficient understanding of women's role;

- Backward socio-economic structures in some of the governorates;

- Internal migration and consequent negative effects on development and the transfer of undesirable customs.

57. The State protects mothers and children. It undertakes measures and procedures which guarantee the provision of this protection at all economic, social and cultural levels, for the proper upbringing of the family and the proper discharge of its functions. In this connection:

- The political leadership has issued numerous laws, the most outstanding of which is Law 3 of 1990;

- Presidential Decree 53 of 1991 established and formed the Yemeni Council for Mother and Child Welfare;

- The Ministry of Social Security and Social Affairs also plays an important part, through the Directorate-General for Women's and Children's Affairs, in actively protecting women from discrimination, by providing legal advice through its branches throughout the country, and by spreading family advice offices. This gives it a great ability to monitor any discriminatory measures against women, through field visits and direct contact with women, or reports of discriminatory actions.

58. Nevertheless, it is extremely important to establish and to spread family advice offices in all the country's governorates. This will help to reduce the difficulties arising from the lengthy periods of time taken to settle court cases, whether at the level of cases involving the family or those related to the civil service, social assistance, social security and pensions, in addition to the provision of free advice and assistance to women.

59. The Directorate-General for Women's and Children's Affairs has held many national seminars, training courses and consultancy meetings, and has undertaken legal and social research in which many professors, intellectuals and research workers of both sexes have taken part, in their respective fields of specialization or interest. These have included work in the legal and social domains, scientific research centres, and studies on communicating awareness of the constitutional and legal rights of both men and women.

60. Through these activities it was possible to determine the problems and difficulties arising from the low level of legal and social awareness of certain individuals of both sexes in comparison with their general level of education. This necessitated the organization of awareness-promotion programmes, in cooperation with legal institutions, at the social and legal levels, in order to limit contravention of the law, which is mainly caused by ignorance of many rights and guarantees given by the Constitution and current laws.

Article 6 of the Convention

61. Prostitution is prohibited by virtue of tradition and custom, which totally reject the existence or the spread of this phenomenon. The law of the Republic of Yemen also prohibits any exploitation of women and any actions that constitute any form of traffic in them. Such actions are punishable by imprisonment. No organized prostitution exists in the Republic of Yemen, as it is unacceptable socially and from the religious point of view.

The Almighty said in Surat an-Nour (the Chapter of Light):

"Let those who find not
The wherewithal for marriage
Keep themselves chaste, until
God gives them means
Out of His grace.
And if any of your slaves
Ask for a deed in writing
(To enable them to earn
Their freedom for a certain sum),
Give them such a deed
If ye know any good
In them; yea, give them
Something yourselves
Out of the means which
God has given to you.
But force not your maids
To prostitution when they desire
Chastity, in order that ye
May make a gain
In the goods of this life.
But if anyone compels them,
Yet, after such compulsion,
Is God Oft-Forgiving,
Most Merciful (to them)."

Article 7 of the Convention

62. The participation of women on an equal basis with men in voting, in the formulation of government policy and in non-governmental organizations and institutions may be judged on the basis of our country's general and political organization. The Constitution guarantees equal rights to all citizens to

vote. Article 3 of General Elections Law 41 of 1992 stipulates that every citizen over 18 years of age has the right to vote. Naturalized citizens who do not fulfil the minimum time required by law are excepted. Article 5 provides that the Supreme Committee shall take all measures which would encourage women to practice their right to vote and establish women's committees to undertake registration of the names of women voters in the voting lists, and to verify their identities when polling takes place, within each electoral constituency. Article 42 stipulates that the right to vote and to stand for election is guaranteed to every citizen. Voters must fulfil the following conditions:

1. Be a Yemeni citizen;

2. Be not less than 18 years of age.

Candidates for election to membership of the Council of Deputies must fulfil the following conditions:

1. Be a Yemeni citizen;

2. Be not less than 25 years of age;

3. Not be illiterate;

4. Be of good repute and character.

63. Article 4 of the Constitution stipulates that the people are the holders of authority and are the source of authority, that they exercise it directly through public referenda and elections, and indirectly through the legislative, executive and judicial bodies, and through elected local councils.

64. The Council of Deputies consists of 301 members, of whom 10 are women, as follows:

Local councils

Governorate	Total number	Number of women
Aden	56	11
Lahej	61	5
Abyan	51	7
Shabwa	47	3
Hadramaut	67	6
Al-Maharah	41	3

Two regional councils in Hadramaut and Lahej:

Saynoun	29	2
Radfan	31	2

Number of women in labour movements:

	Males	Females	Percentage
Central council	77	8	1.4
Labour union councils	419	58	12.2
Labour councils (governorates)	230	23	41.9
Labour councils (provinces)	177	31	17.5
Unions' basic committees	7,363	1,299	14.9

The Popular Defence Organization, a popular mass organization, very broadly based in all districts, residential units, cities and provinces, especially in the southern and eastern governorates, has a membership as follows:

	Males	Females
National leadership	51	5
General Secretariat	6	1
Active members	130,215	61,442

The Yemeni Youth Union Organization has a country-wide membership of 70,000, of whom 62 per cent are girls, as follows:

Central Committee	Males	Females
Regular members	650	8
Nominated members	16	4
Executive Office	17	2
General Secretariat	20	2

Article 8 of the Convention

65. Representation of the country and participation in international forums:

> Yemeni women have played a prominent role upon being given the opportunity to be fully equal with men in participation in all international and regional conferences and meetings, as representatives of the Republic of Yemen, and in attending sessions of the United Nations General Assembly.

66. The participation of women in such activities and events is a concrete reflection of the efforts made to give women opportunities equal to those of men.

67. Yemeni women have occupied important positions in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and numerous posts in the diplomatic and consular corps, as well as posts in diplomatic and consular missions abroad.

Article 9 of the Convention

68. Article 3 of Law 6 of 1990 concerning Yemeni citizenship stipulates the following:

> Yemeni citizenship is enjoyed by:

(a) A person born to a father who enjoys this citizenship;

(b) A person born in Yemen of a Yemeni mother and a father who is of unknown citizenship or stateless;

(c) A person born in Yemen of a Yemeni mother and whose paternity is not legally established;

(d) A person born in Yemen of unknown parents. An infant found in Yemen is considered to have been born there unless the contrary is proven;

(e) An emigrant who held Yemeni citizenship at the time of his departure from the homeland and did not give up this citizenship in accordance with the law and on the basis of a permit requested by him, even if he has acquired the citizenship of the country in which he is resident under its laws.

Article 10 of the Law stipulates the following:

A Yemeni woman who marries a foreign Muslim retains her Yemeni citizenship, unless she wishes to give it up and expresses that wish at the time of her marriage or during her marriage, and the laws of her husband's country permit her to acquire his citizenship.

69. If such a woman's marriage contract is legally invalid, she retains her Yemeni citizenship.

Article 12 provides for the following in cases of mixed marriages:

70. Acquisition by a Yemeni of a foreign citizenship, even if he is permitted to acquire such citizenship, does not entail the loss of Yemeni citizenship by his Yemeni wife, unless she declares her wish to acquire her husband's new nationality. Minor children do not lose Yemeni citizenship if they acquire their father's new citizenship by appurtenance.

71. Article 13 refers to retention of citizenship by a woman who has acquired Yemeni citizenship from her husband by appurtenance by virtue of article 11 of this law upon termination of the marriage, on condition that this marriage has lasted for at least four years since her acquisition of Yemeni citizenship. Article 14, on regaining citizenship, stipulates the following: a Yemeni woman who has lost her Yemeni citizenship by virtue of the provisions of articles 10 and 12 of this law may regain this citizenship upon termination of the marriage if she so requests.

Article 10 of the Convention

72. Education in the Republic of Yemen is considered an essential social service. The State endeavours to spread it and expand it throughout the country. It is one of the rights guaranteed by the Constitution, of which article 37 states that education is a right of all citizens, guaranteed by the State, through the establishment of various schools and cultural and educational institutions. The State is particularly concerned with the welfare of youth and their protection from deviation. It provides them with religious, intellectual and physical education. It provides them with appropriate conditions for developing themselves in all fields. Observation

of the progress of education in our country reveals a great expansion in that domain. Significant results are apparent in the continuous annual increase in enrolment in all types of education. The output of the education system is the main source of supply of manpower for the labour market, at various levels and degrees of skill. Perusal of article 37 of the Constitution shows that the main objectives of education concentrate on the welfare of youth, to protect them from deviation and to prepare them spiritually, intellectually and physically, in order to achieve a comprehensive and balanced development, with a well-developed personality and multiple aptitudes.

73. The general objectives set out by the Constitution translate into more detailed and specific targets through the Education Bill which was discussed by the Council of Deputies, encompassing the main functions of the various levels of the education system, while taking into consideration the special nature of the various phases of development of the different age groups enrolled.

74. As regards the status of Yemeni women in the field of education, one of the most important changes to have taken place in their lives was obtaining their right to education. This was one of the great achievements of the Yemeni Revolution. While women's education was previously considered difficult to attain, it has now become a reality, available to all citizens without any distinction based on gender or any social or cultural circumstances.

75. The changes taking place in Yemen confirm the need of both women and society for women to be educated, so that they can keep pace with the process of the development of society, and participate actively and consciously in the country's development activities. The response of Yemeni girls to the opportunity to receive an education exceeded expectations, especially in urban areas. In the year following the September Revolution the first official regular schools for girls were opened in Sanaa, Taizz and Hodeida, and enrolment was quite high. The circumstances of this first group were a consequence of whatever basic education some girls had received in a family context or at small "kuttabs" (the lowest level of elementary schools).

76. The road ahead of the first group appeared to be long and arduous, as a result of the pre-revolution situation, and due to doubts and fears spread by some about female education.

77. Ministry of Education statistics for the school year 1990/91 indicate that the total enrolment in the First Grade of children six to seven years old was 324,646, of whom 229,739 were boys and 94,907 were girls. The total number of six-year-old children was 430,290, which means a 75.4 per cent enrolment. This shows that not all school-age children are enrolled. Statistics also clearly indicate a difference between male and female enrolment, with girls representing 29.3 per cent of the total. and boys 70.7 per cent.

78. Various statistics and figures show that, in spite of female education lagging behind that of males numerically and qualitatively, the relative development of female education stems from a significant change in attitude by individual members of society. There has also been an increase in social awareness within the family in particular and in society in general. These new factors hold promise for the future of women and of our society.

79. It is a fact that the entrance of Yemeni girls into the domain of education has brought about great changes in their lives. They have been able to acquire a good range of skills and knowledge, and education has enabled them to participate in the various changes occurring in Yemen. It has enabled them to attain many social and leadership positions which had previously been denied to them, and which they could not have reached without education and awareness.

80. Today there are educated women and working women in Yemeni society. There are women teachers, managers, engineers, nurses, doctors, media specialists, factory workers, lawyers, journalists, accountants and university professors. Women have also been able to attain a number of high positions in the State, at the level of the political parties and the Council of Deputies. There are women counsellors and diplomats, deans of colleges and university vice-presidents, and there was previously a woman head of a scientific section. All these functions and leadership roles go side by side with the great roles played by women in the family, as wife, mother and daughter.

81. Education has greatly accelerated change in women's lives, and has given them an awareness of themselves, their situation and their status in society. It has brought awareness to their families and to society, and has also represented a material gain for them and their families, and may have also given them a good level of economic independence.

82. While speaking with pride today about the development of the education of girls in our society, we are in fact making comparisons with their situation prior to the changes that have taken place in Yemen. While we are at present living in an era of great and rapid social, economic and technological change, the situation of females in the field of education must be further improved. An impetus is required in this domain, particularly as the education of girls is faced with numerous social and cultural obstacles, the most important of which are summarized below:

Widespread phenomenon of early marriage

83. This is a phenomenon characteristic of Yemeni family structure in general, and the rural family structure in particular. Many families try to get their children - especially the daughters - married at an early age, between 15 and 16, for social, economic and moral reasons. These are all important considerations in the family context. Other considerations are disregarded, essentially those related to the harmful effects of early marriage, including health, psychological, cultural and educational damage.

84. Two studies undertaken in Yemen indicated that early marriage of a girl prevents her from obtaining an education, or from moving up to a higher level of education. One of them found that girls are withdrawn from school at an early age and married, in accordance with tradition and custom, particularly after puberty. The other study asserts that early marriage is one of the main reasons for abstention from education. This was the response given by about 92.5 per cent of the family heads of the sample covered by the study. Nor are the problems resulting from early marriage restricted to girls dropping out of education and the low level of female education. The negative effects go much further, touching development activities and women's roles therein. Early marriage means early pregnancy and successive childbearing. The high fertility rate was confirmed by a fertility survey undertaken in 1979 in the

northern governorates. It found that the gross birth rate was 93 per thousand of the population, with over eight children per woman. This could have an effect on women's health and on their ability to dedicate themselves and to bring up and care for their children. It also severely limits women's abilities to improve themselves and restricts their ambitions, as well as dissuading many from taking up their education again if the opportunity arises later.

85. While society gives boys the opportunity to learn and to devote themselves to their specializations and to benefit therefrom, to make them more creative and innovative, the education of girls is still neglected by many. This reflects attitudes of society and the old popular traditional view of women's function and role in life. This would require her to be a wife, mother and housewife, therefore not needing education or higher education, as they would ultimately revert to their natural role: the home and the family.

86. This attitude towards the education of girls is in fact a traditional necessity in the social education process. The upbringing of children differs from infancy in accordance with the child's gender. This is apparent in the social practices we experience in our day-to-day life.

87. One of the obstacles to the education of girls is that compulsory education is not enforced. Primary education is compulsory only in theory. Furthermore, the education of girls in rural areas faces many problems, due mainly to the unavailability of special schools for girls, and a lack of qualified female teachers. This causes families to refrain from giving their daughters an education, out of consideration for the prevailing culture and customs and traditions, which are stricter in rural areas where education is concerned. Household work is also a factor which constitutes an obstacle to the education of girls. They become accustomed to such work at an early age, as they are prepared at an early stage for family life, which they are expected to manage on their own later. The main concern of some families is preparing their daughters and getting them ready to be housewives, and getting them more accustomed to this idea than to the idea of education. This is due to a social need felt by the family. For a daughter to move to her new marital life she must be good at household work.

88. Statistics show that the total student enrolment at the University of Sanaa in the academic year 1989/90 was 31,518; of these 31 per cent were female. There was a total of 4,066 students at the University of Aden in 1989/90, of whom 1,544 or about 38 per cent were female.

89. Illiteracy is one of the obstacles which hinder the development and progress of societies. It was very widespread in Yemen in the 1960s, and this led the two nationalist regimes in Sanaa and Aden to make efforts to overcome the problematic situation which was inherited from previous eras, one of the main features of which was widespread ignorance and illiteracy. The country has been the scene of wide-ranging activities since the beginning of the 1970s, aimed at adult education and combating illiteracy. These activities produced positive results that reduced the acuteness of the problem, and consisted of the following:

1. Promulgation of special legislation on the eradication of illiteracy and adult education: article 164 of the Public Education Law, issued in the former northern part of the country in 1974, and the

two laws on the eradication of illiteracy and adult education of 1973 and 1980, issued in the former southern part.

2. Implementation of numerous activities and programmes aimed at curbing illiteracy. The most significant of these was the comprehensive campaign for the eradication of illiteracy which was conducted for six months in 1984 in all the southern and eastern governorates, and in 1983 in the northern ones.

3. Opening of numerous vocational centres, with the aim of teaching the male and female participants skills that would assist them in their practical life. Continuing education classes were also opened, with the aim of helping students not to retrogress into illiteracy, and to pursue further studies.

90. Statistics submitted by the Agency for Adult Education and the Eradication of Illiteracy in the Education Book, published on the first anniversary of Yemeni union, indicate that the total number of students enrolled in literacy classes was 79,897 in the school year 1990/91; of these 41,751 were male and 38,146 were female. The number of students in the continuing classes reached 42,613 in the same year; of these 19,422 were male and 23,191 were female. Statistics showed that urban enrolment was 40,610 males, and 4,115 females. Present country-level statistical indicators show that the illiteracy rate, especially in the over-ten age group, is about 65 per cent, and is higher than that for females and in rural and remote areas.

91. Although these encouraging activities have had a positive effect, illiteracy must be totally eradicated, and a link must be established between adult education and literacy activities and development issues.

Article 11 of the Convention

Women and employment and social security

92. Civil Service Law 19 of 1990 grants equality of opportunity and rights as regards salaries and wages. It stipulates that a woman's right to work is inalienable, and is subject to the conditions of equal rights and opportunities for all citizens, without distinction on the basis of gender, age, customs, colour, faith and language. Article 12 of this law stipulates the following:

> The occupation of public office shall be based on the principle of equality of opportunity and equal rights for all citizens without any distinction. The State shall guarantee the means to monitor the application of this principle.

93. Article 45 defines weekly working hours as being not less than 35 hours and not more than 40 hours, and regulations govern exceptional cases. The working hours of a pregnant or nursing woman are not to exceed four hours per day if she is in her sixth month of pregnancy, and five hours if she is nursing until her baby is six months old.

94. Article 59 grants women maternity leave at full pay for 60 continuous days before and after delivery. Maternity leave does not affect normal leave.

95. Pregnant women are given 20 days in addition to the number of days stipulated in paragraph 1 of this article in the following cases:

1. If the birth is complicated and requires surgery;

2. If twins are delivered.

96. Article 60 (b) stipulates that a female employee has the right to special leave at full pay not deducted from normal leave. It provides that a female employee is entitled to a maximum of 40 days' leave in the event of the death of her husband.

97. Article 19 of Social Security and Pensions Law 25 of 1991 provides that beneficiaries receive retirement pensions in the following cases:

1. If the beneficiary has completed 35 full years of actual service;

2. If the beneficiary retires at his own request after 30 years of actual service for men and 35 for women, regardless of age;

3. If the beneficiary retires at his own request after 25 years of service for men at the age of 50, and 20 years of actual service for women at the age of 46;

4. If the beneficiary retires at the age of 60 after an actual period of service of 15 years for men, or at 55 after a period of service of 10 years for women;

5. If proved to be medically unfit due to disability resulting from an irremediable job-related injury (regardless of the period of service);

6. If proved medically unfit by decision of a medical committee (regardless of the period of service);

7. In the event of the death of the worker, whatever the cause of death (regardless of the period of service);

8. Upon reaching retirement age: 60 for men and 50 for women;

9. The Labour Law gives women, on an equal basis with men, access to appropriate health-care facilities in the event of job-related injury, and provides for financial compensation for women on the same basis as men.

98. In order to assist working women, many kindergartens and nurseries have been established to look after the children of working mothers. These are considered fundamental to the development and education of the young, ensuring that working women continue to practice their rights and participate in the development process. Nationwide, there are now 12,679 children of both sexes in the kindergartens and nurseries.

99. Statistics indicate that the overall participation of women is lower than that of men: 33.3 per cent of activities at the national level in 1988. This means that the female labour force was 682,771 persons. This low figure is due to:

(a) Social and religious delimitations and controls over women's employment;

(b) Low level of women's education.

100. It is certain that the participation of women in the labour force will continue to increase as a result of women's interest in education and the social and economic changes which Yemeni society is undergoing.

Article 12 of the Convention

101. The Republic of Yemen is one of the least developed countries. Average per capita income is estimated at about US$ 460 per year. The population growth rate is 3.1 per cent, one of the highest in the world. A large percentage of the population is young, with about 30.7 per cent of the total population under five years of age, and 53 per cent under 15. Women in the 10-44 age group represent 35.3 per cent of the population, and the overall maintenance rate is about 1.3 per cent.

102. The Republic of Yemen endeavours to provide free health care for all citizens of both sexes, through public health schemes based on improvement of health services and care, and bringing them to the various parts of the country, especially the remote areas.

103. Our country has witnessed a radical change in preventive medicine. Work is in progress to control endemic diseases and to reduce the rates of their incidence, through spreading basic health-care services in the rural areas and providing preventive and curative services to the people on an equal basis, regardless of gender, social standing or age. The various information media are used to spread health education among the people, as well as the public specialized and teaching hospitals, health centres and maternity institutions. Available data indicate that in spite of all efforts made so far, health services are still inadequate, reaching only 45 per cent of the population, with vast differences between the urban and rural areas. Access to health-care services is still difficult for most mothers and children, due to the limited allocations given to the Ministry of Health, apart from environmental, social and economic factors.

104. The State is exerting itself to achieve positive results in the field of mother and child health, through population activities and a political commitment to a population programme. A demographic survey is planned, in the field of mother and child health, and a system is to be established to collect health data needed for the planning of future programmes.

105. Statistics indicate that there are now 912 basic health-care centres.

106. A national plan is being formulated to achieve the following objectives:

(a) Reduction of child mortality in the 1 to 4 age group by 50 per cent as compared with the 1991 rate;

(b) Reduction of the maternal mortality rate to 50 per cent of the 1991 rate;

(c) Reduction of the infant mortality rate from 130 per 1,000 live births in 1991 to 60 per 1,000 live births;

(d) Raising life expectancy at birth from 46 in 1991 to 60;

(e) Reduction of the fertility rate to an average of six births during the fertile period of married women, compared with the estimated overall average of 8.3 in 1991;

(f) Increasing the use of family planning methods to 35 per cent as compared with the 1991 rate of 5 per cent;

(g) Increasing the coverage of basic health care to reach 89 per cent of the total population;

(h) Reduction of the incidence of medium and severe malnutrition-related diseases to 50 per cent of the 1991 level;

(i) Increasing coverage of immunization against the six childhood diseases to 85 per cent of children under one, and immunization of women of childbearing age against tetanus;

(j) The establishment of a national population council to play an active role in emphasizing population problems and their relation to mother and child health, composed of leaders in government institutions and in the provinces, with representatives of voluntary organizations, the private sector, academics, general practitioners and professionals;

(k) Development of the quality of mother and child health and family planning services, by increasing the number of centres providing such services, by training workers at these centres, and integrating them with other health programmes, as well as by mobilizing potential capabilities to participate in planning, financing and utilizing existing facilities. In addition, the private sector will be encouraged to participate in financing health services and disseminating health education, as regards nutrition, pregnancy and children, and in providing appropriate food to needy families.

Article 13 of the Convention

107. The right to obtain financial loans:

Bank loans: Women have the same right as men to request loans.

Borrowing is regulated and includes the following types of loan:

1. Marriage loans;

2. Loans for medical treatment;

3. Loans against securities;

4. Automobile purchase loans;

5. Special and other loans.

108. All these loans are personal, and no distinction is made between a male and a female borrower, on condition that the borrower is a government employee or employed by a public institution. After the amount of the loan is agreed upon and the loan approved, the borrower must provide a warranty from the

place of his or her employment for the deduction of prescribed monthly instalments to be transferred to the bank until the loan and interest are repaid. There are also loans for the construction of new houses or the completion or extension of an existing one.

109. As regards sports, women's participation in sports activities after the glorious September and October Revolutions remained limited to a number of local sporting clubs, due to the backwardness in which they had previously lived.

110. From the early 1970s, this situation received attention, and women were encouraged to participate in sports. Women participated in volleyball, basketball, table tennis, swimming and track and field sports.

111. The State has expressed great interest in this aspect, as part of its efforts to enable women to play their role in every domain, including sports. They were prominent in a number of international school sports competitions in Libya, Syria and Somalia in the 1980s. Efforts were exerted in line with current policy, and many measures were taken to increase women's opportunities to participate, and to encourage them to do so. Women were very prominent in numerous sports events at home and abroad. They won many medals, including silver for volleyball at the school competition held in Libya and gold for table tennis.

Article 14 of the Convention

112. Rural women actively participate in agricultural development in the Central Highlands in the Governorate of Sanaa' and Dhamar. Their participation is in the order of 60 per cent of all agricultural activities, reaching 70 per cent in the Southern Highlands, and dropping to 30 per cent in the Tihama region. This is due to the migration of many males to urban areas. Although basic education is available to a similar extent in the rural and urban areas, it has become restricted to males only, to the detriment of the females, for the following reasons:

- Early marriage of girls;
- Refusal of permission to pursue education alongside males;
- The nature of the rural economy which relies on young people for agricultural work during the agricultural seasons;
- Lack of encouragement of education of girls, and its restriction to males;
- Long distances between homes and schools;
- Shortage of female graduates from rural areas to work in teaching jobs in their home areas, to provide an incentive for girls to pursue their education.

113. Women are affected by environmental factors, which may be summarized as follows:

1. Poor sanitary conditions in some Yemeni village houses, with poor light and ventilation and poor disposal of household wastes. This

causes high rates of incidence of intestinal and pulmonary ailments. Women are more affected, as it is they who prepare the family's food and carry water from surface or underground sources. They are responsible for the cleanliness of infants, the young and the old, and if the housewife falls ill she becomes an active agent in the transmission of these diseases to all the members of the household. Clean water supplies are far from the homes, which increases the burden of rural women as they are responsible for this task. As a result, they use sources closer to their homes, which are frequently polluted, as they are used for many purposes, such as washing clothes and bathing, and even for the disposal of wastes from nearby villages. This exposes women more than men to amoebic and parasitic diseases which are caught through contact with such water, or by drinking it. Men are of course also exposed to infection for the same reasons.

2. Women work in the fields alongside men, planting and harvesting, and taking part in pest control operations. This exposes them to a severe cumulative effect from pesticides, with serious consequences for foetuses, as well as a number of effects on the health of the reproductive, respiratory and digestive systems, in addition to causing lethargy, nervous hypertension, skin inflammations, shortness of breath and a rapid heartbeat. During pregnancy, foetuses are also affected due to exposure to these harmful chemicals.

3. Poor nutrition in comparison with men and frequent pregnancies reduce women's overall immunity in those communities where they are exposed to bacterial, parasitic and viral diseases, which cause them to bear weak children.

114. Our country has been greatly concerned with the education and training of rural women, considering that such education and training are one of the most important means of bringing about radical, positive changes in the situation of the people as a whole, and that of rural society in particular. Rural women are being educated and trained in order to enable them to share the benefits of development through participation in the overall development process. The first of the projects undertaken in this regard was the establishment of 74 rural society development centres in 1976 in the southern and eastern governorates, and then in 1978 in the northern and western governorates, distributed as follows:

Governorate	Number of centres
Sanaa	10
Al-Bayda	1
Taizz and Ibb	15
Hodeida	26
Al-Mahwit	5
Socotra	1
Lahej	1
Abyan	1
Shabwa	2
Hadramaut	1
Al-Maharah	1

The objective of these centres is to improve the living conditions of rural women from the social, economic and health points of view, and to promote their education and training in new crafts, through the following programmes:

1. Eradication of illiteracy;

2. Agricultural extension (botany and animal husbandry);

3. Encouragement of traditional handicrafts and teaching of modern crafts;

4. Organization of rural development centres, lectures, seminars, workshops, cultural courses, and local study tours;

5. Efforts aimed at promoting women's participation in rural development activities. This requires a two-pronged approach: to persuade men to accept the vitality of women and to include them in sharing the responsibility for development, and to boost rural women's confidence in their potential capabilities;

6. Formulation of programmes of functional literacy for women, teaching them a variety of skills and broadening their knowledge related to their complex roles as a productive economic force, as mother, wife, housewife and good citizen;

7. Encouraging women to create special agricultural cooperatives in which women will be responsible, or in which they will be active members as financial contributors only;

8. Expansion of the establishment of the Productive Families Centres and community development centres in rural areas, to benefit from social programmes and services and awareness-promotion conducive to contributing to improved awareness in Yemeni families;

9. Encouraging rural women to establish production cooperatives to participate in the satisfaction of the requirements of their rural society and its development, and to raise public awareness of the importance of such cooperatives to the advancement of the situation of women, the family and society;

10. Provision of pure drinking-water in rural areas, formulation of programmes aimed at educating people regarding the danger of using polluted water which causes many contagious diseases, and provision of means for the disposal of waste and rubbish, and other environmental health facilities;

11. Increasing the number of mother and child-care units in the rural areas, providing them with means of birth control and staffing them with female specialists and social workers to work among the women, to explain birth control and its effects on the health of the mother and the foetus.

Article 15 of the Convention

Conclusion of contracts

115. Article 3 (a) of Law 20 of 1971 on the Ownership of Dwellings stipulates that the Ministry shall transfer to citizens ownership of new dwellings which are built by it or whose building it undertakes, when it deems this to be necessary or when ownership is transferred by decree by the Minister.

116. Article 2 of this law defines the citizen without any distinction, as a Yemeni citizen who has a steady source of income guaranteeing recovery of debts to the State or the bank. The law does not make any distinction between males and females. Women have the right to conclude contracts and all special instruments. Such documents have the same legal validity as documents drawn up by men, and fulfil the legal requirements of any contract of agreement to purchase or to sell.

Article 16 of the Convention

Marriage and family relations

117. Personal rights are of great importance in matters concerning marital and family relations, and are reflected in practice in all aspects of private life. Personal Statute Law 20 of 1992 governs marital and family relations and ties, the right to guardianship, the mutual rights of the spouses and their minor and adult children. This law was issued by Presidential Decree on 29 March 1992. Section one, chapter two, article 6, stipulates that marriage is a relationship between spouses established by legal contract whereby men and women are lawfully joined in a union the objective of which is to establish a family based on conjugal community.

118. Article 12 of the law permits polygamy, up to four wives, on condition of the ability of the husband to be just and to treat them equally, failing which one wife only is permitted. Marriage to another wife is subject to the following conditions:

(a) That there is a legitimate interest;

(b) That there is financial ability to support more than one wife;

(c) That the woman is notified that the man desiring to marry her is already married to another woman;

(d) That the wife is informed that her husband wishes to take another wife in addition to her.

119. Article 15 of the Law prohibits the marriage of boys or girls under 15 years of age. Article 23 stipulates that the woman must give her consent. Silence (i.e. non-objection) by a virgin is considered acceptance, while a previously married woman must voice her consent. Article 23 entitles a woman to dispose of her dower in any way she pleases. Articles 41 and 42 are concerned with the marital domicile and the husband's duties to his wife as regards providing her with a legal, independent domicile, and being responsible for her maintenance and clothing. He is prohibited from molesting

her property or harming her materially or morally. He does not have the right to bring a second wife to reside with his first one in the same domicile unless she consents to this, and she may retract her consent if she so wishes.

120. Article 45 of the Law stipulates that marriage can be annulled only by court order. Nothing is attendant upon the annulment before the court has pronounced its decision. If the reason for the annulment causes conjugal cohabitation to become unlawful for the man, such cohabitation ceases and they must be separated until the court orders an annulment. In all cases, if the annulment takes place after consummation of the marriage, the legal waiting period, "Iddah", must be observed, to provide evidence that there is no pregnancy.

121. Each of the spouses has the right to request annulment if he or she perceives a fault or a blemish in the other, whether such fault or blemish existed before the marriage contract or if it occurred thereafter. A fault or blemish in the husband would be for example insanity or leprosy, and in the wife cornification, osteoporosis or a cystoule condition.

122. Articles 50, 52, 53 and 55 give a woman the right to annul her marriage if her rightful maintenance is no longer provided, or if her husband is absent at some unknown location or if he is outside the homeland, after one year in the case of a non-provider of maintenance, and after two years in the case of a maintainer, and in case of the inability of the husband to provide maintenance and a domicile if he is married to more than one woman, and in case of addiction to alcohol or narcotic substance, if proved.

123. Article 71 entitles a judge to rule that a divorced woman receive compensation not exceeding one year's alimony until she receives the "Iddah" alimony if it appears to the judge that the husband is being arbitrary in divorcing his wife without reasonable cause, and that the wife would suffer distress and want.

124. As regards custody, article 39 stipulates that this shall be up to 9 years for male children and up to 12 years for female children, unless the judge decides otherwise in the interests of the child. Article 141 stipulates that the eligibility of a mother to have custody of a child must be proven. The custody does not lapse unless the child accepts, as is its right, and a remarried woman's husband may not prevent her from having custody, as she is the sole eligible person. Poor morals are not grounds for a woman's being barred from having custody of a child, until it is five years old.

Role of educational, information and guidance programmes in application of the Convention

125. The Ministry of Social Security and Social Affairs uses a number of methods and means to implement educational and information activities aimed at mobilizing public opinion, developing women's awareness, and bringing the articles of the Convention to their attention. These are reflected in the following:

(a) Holding large, programmed meetings with women in various associations and in residential areas;

(b) Lectures for female students at schools, institutes and university colleges;

(c) Organizing seminars, conferences, workshops and cultural and study courses aimed at increasing awareness of issues concerning women and development;

(d) Production of educational and cultural material;

(e) Production of educational audio-visual materials on health and social issues;

(f) Explanation of the various aspects of activities undertaken by the Ministry, including its participation in international conferences and regional cultural and study courses on women, and communication of their purport to a large audience of women through radio, television and the press.

126. The Ministry also has its own radio programmes as part of its educational and information effort to promote the Convention. The Directorate-General for Women's and Children's Affairs supervises the preparation of subjects and information for its daily information programme "Musaad and Musaada", broadcast ten minutes daily by the Central Broadcasting Authority, from 9.30 a.m. It is listened to by a large sector of Yemeni families in all the governorates. The Ministry follows a policy of including in these programmes the subject of application of the Convention and adherence to it. Legal advisers participate in this work.

127. In addition to the above-mentioned forms of information, all the information media of the country (radio, press, television) disseminate various items aimed at making the people aware of the Government's efforts to develop and improve the status of women. All the Republic's mass media join in the effort to firmly establish women's new role in our society today, as an embodiment of the policy of the State. Such efforts should be concerted and interconnected, in order to attain the level of complete mobilization of potential collective capabilities which can be increasingly utilized. More efforts by the authorities competent in this domain are necessary.

VIII. MEANS OF DISSEMINATING THE CONVENTION

128. The Ministry of Social Security and Social Affairs, through the Directorate-General for Women's and Children's Affairs, has direct responsibility for the dissemination of the provisions of the Convention. This task is accomplished by the following means:

(a) Publication of the Declaration and the Convention in its publication series devoted to this end;

(b) Coordination with the various ministries through the Supreme Committee for the Development of Family and Child Affairs;

(c) Coordination with the Yemeni Centre for Studies and Research, the Education Development Research Centre and the Universities of Sanaa and Aden, with the aim of benefiting from the experience of their specialists;

(d) Complete mobilization of women through organized activities implemented by the Ministry and various official and popular agencies and organizations at all places of work and production, with the aim of applying the articles of the Convention, and also at the Productive Families Centres and Centres for the Development of Society;

(e) Coordination with the Ministries of Education and Higher Education to examine and re-evaluate curricula, as well as the adult functional illiteracy eradication programme, with the aim of including in those programmes the principles of non-discrimination against women;

(f) Re-evaluation of the present method of disseminating the Convention at the levels of public information and promotion of awareness, in the light of recommendations by experts.

129. Women are an integral part of society. There is a definite recognition that women have played historical roles in the realm of development and progress. They have carried the torch of modernization in their respective countries and have made outstanding contributions in all fields, influenced by social and economic changes and transformations. The role of women in any location is an important indicator of the level of development of society, and the degree of social, economic and cultural development.

130. If women are referred to in this report as having a distinct situation, it is because they are usually looked upon as a social sector living in unnatural circumstances, in distinct situations. This is what led to their being in a backward state, lagging not only behind men but also behind the general progress of society. What we wish to make clear here is that the situations and roles of women must not be understood to mean that women are separate from their society, or that their issues are separate from those of society. Wherever they are, women are an integral part of our society and of its traditions. Any approach to women's situation must not be outside the context of the reality of this social, political and economic structure. Women's apparent backwardness was linked with the general backwardness of society, and their situation today is concurrent with the various types of transformation taking place in Yemen. Therefore, dealing with women's issues, even if they appear to be of a special nature, must remain within the overall framework of the problem of the liberation and progress of our society.

131. In order to clarify many of the questions connected with the level of implementation of the Convention, the difficulties which face its implementation must be pointed out. In spite of the progress which has been achieved in all domains, there are numerous social, political and economic obstacles which may be summarized as follows:

- Prevalence of the phenomenon of early marriage. Many families try to get their daughters married at an early age (15 to 16 years) owing to social, economic and moral considerations. This prevents them from

receiving an education, or prevents them from going on to higher levels of education, and is one of the most important reasons for abstention from education. In fact, this attitude towards women's education is necessary in the social development process. From childhood, upbringing differs according to gender. This is obvious in the social practices with which women continue to live;

- Insufficient schools for girls in rural areas and a shortage of qualified female teachers. This makes families reluctant to have their daughters educated, out of consideration for prevailing cultural factors, customs and traditions;

- The Personal Statute Law establishes the legal age for marriage for a woman as 15 years;

- Prevalence of illiteracy among women, reaching 84.5 per cent;

- The system of evening classes does not encourage women to pursue their education, due to the distance between home and school in rural areas;

- Lack of rural female graduates to work in their native areas, which would act as an incentive to women to continue their education;

- Low level of participation of women in the labour force (38 per cent);

- The qualitative and quantitative discrepancy between men and woman in the field of employment is a result of a combination of social, cultural and educational hangovers and negative attitudes towards women's development and their role. In some cases, women are prevented from acquiring much education or from reaching higher levels of education, the excuse being customs and traditions, or specialization of work, with women ultimately returning to the household. The situation is the same as regards employment: some families have a strict attitude towards women working and oppose it. Many people disapprove of women being out of the house and mixing in the workplace;

- Women's activities such as commercial activities, sewing, baking break, and other such activities, are not given their due, in spite of their significant contribution to the family economy;

- The role of rural women in agriculture is not recognized, nor is their economic contribution, even though it may be demonstrated in a restricted manner. This reduces women's contribution to development, and may even relegate them to the status of dependants if they are not officially part of labour force statistics. This is an unfair and unjust attitude towards the role of rural women. Their work has yet to be evaluated in terms of international economic norms, but the fact is that they are successful farmers, and their importance in agriculture is just as great as the importance of this sector to the general economy;

- The employment of women in many industries on an equal footing with men has increased their risk of exposure to industrial hazards, including vapours of toxic metals such as mercury and lead, as well as chemicals with a cumulative toxic effect and high noise levels. All this can cause organic damage, with a direct effect on the health of their children and on their capacity to contribute to their upbringing;

- The employment of women in addition to their household work without the availability of various social services increases their working hours, and consequently decreases their hours of rest. This leads to women being more seriously affected if they fall ill, whether for vocational or other reasons, which also has negative effects on the family;

- The distance of sources of clean water from homes increases women's burden, as carrying water is part of their household duties. This causes them to use closer sources where the water may be polluted, thus exposing themselves to parasitic diseases through contact with the water or by drinking it;

- Women work alongside men in the fields, harvesting crops and in areas where pesticides are used to control worms and other agricultural pests. They are therefore exposed to the cumulative harmful effects of pesticides, which affect their health, and that of the foetuses of pregnant women;

- Exposure to pesticides, poor nutrition compared to men and repeated pregnancies reduce women's overall immunity, exposing them to bacterial, parasitic and viral diseases, and leading to the birth of weak children;

- There is a lack of medical services in rural areas and a shortage of medical personnel qualified in birth control;

- The various means of birth control are not available in appropriate quantities and at affordable cost, and there is insufficient promotion of birth control and related health matters;

- Early marriage, reflecting women's inferior position as a result of social customs which encourage childbirth, is one of the important reasons for maternal mortality, due to the number of years of pregnancy and the risks to which women who are not fully developed are exposed;

- Mother and child health and family planning services are not available in many parts of the country, especially to rural women;

- Insufficient attention is given by the information media (press, radio and television) to the importance and role of family planning;

- There is no official State population policy;

- Women do not participate in the political, social and economic decision-making process.

IX. CONCLUSION

132. Signature of the 1979 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women by the Republic of Yemen is a clear indication of our country's interest in women's issues. Numerous laws have been issued, guaranteeing women's social, political, economic and educational rights and obligations. Nevertheless, the circumstances of Yemeni society are such that certain values and traditions of a negative nature as regards women in particular and society as a whole still persist. Improvement of women's status requires increased political and cultural awareness in the society, in order to bring about real participation by women, the fulfilment of their aspirations and an objective appreciation of their role and their participation in the process of change.

Table 1

Total population of Yemen
by age group from 1988 to 1990

Age group	1988	1989	1990
-4	3 336 100	3 384 500	3 403 000
-9	1 848 200	1 933 600	2 007 460
-14	1 317 970	1 410 300	1 510 180
-19	956 470	1 014 430	1 073 800
-24	694 160	735 570	767 340
-29	619 640	624 960	638 430
-34	5 458 400	554 700	564 950
-39	476 150	486 340	494 800
-44	485 610	397 100	410 290
-49	326 710	32 960	333 780
-54	385 490	293 670	295 890
-59	224 930	229 790	239 370
-64	187 200	181 060	179 320
-69	134 430	134 600	135 650
-74	158 990	153 090	147 590
	10 608 040	10 947 350	11 279 460

Table 2

Population distribution
by sex and age group, 1988-1990

Age group	Males			Females		
	1988	1989	1990	1988	1989	1990
-4	1 176 690	1 200 680	1 212 410	1 159 410	1 183 820	1 190 600
-9	959 630	997 390	1 030 000	888 590	935 380	977 460
-14	696 940	796 000	796 930	631 030	664 330	713 260
-19	480 490	517 600	555 730	475 980	496 830	518 070
-24	317 470	338 950	366 030	376 690	386 630	401 310
-29	264 570	269 400	274 060	355 070	355 560	354 360
-34	231 480	234 650	338 970	314 360	320 050	325 980
-39	210 970	313 220	214 810	365 180	373 110	279 990
-44	180 380	184 140	188 230	205 230	312 960	223 060
-49	154 480	154 510	155 970	2 172 230	174 950	177 830
-54	138 270	142 520	143 560	143 560	147 220	119 070
-59	113 560	114 700	119 300	112 370	115 090	119 070
-64	91 800	88 580	87 830	87 820	95 400	91 500
-69	66 610	66 070	65 880	67 810	68 540	69 780
-74	53 290	47 120	43 670	56 860	49 070	44 940
-	74 550	71 830	69 360	84 440	81 370	78 330
	5 210 170	5 387 250	5 563 610	537 870	5 580 100	5 716 860

Table 3

Population for the years 1990, 2003, 2023

Years	1990	2003	2023
Alternative	Population in millions		
High	11.3	17.3	38.9
Medium	11.3	17.0	35.7
Low	11.3	16.9	37.5

Urban-rural population distribution in the Republic, 1990-2003

Alternative	Year	Total population	Urban	%	Rural	%
High	1990	11 379 450	2 415 310	21.4	8 864 140	78.6
	2003	17 353 040	6 502 340	37.7	10 749 700	12.2
Medium	1990	11 383 430	3 416 080	21.4	8 866 240	78.6
	3003	17 015 290	6 413 880	37.7	10 603 410	12.3
Low	1990	11 280 080	2 415 760	21.4	8 864 320	78.6
	3003	16 932 580	6 378 760	37.7	10 553 820	12.2

Table 4

Summary of data in reports of field survey groups on kindergartens in the governorates

Governorates	No. of kindergartens			No. of sections		No. of children government			No. of children private			Total children govt., priv.	Educational personnel government, private					No. of workers govt., priv.
	Govt.	Priv.	Tot.	Govt.	Priv.	M	F	Total	M	F	Total		Director	Deputy	Supervisors	Teachers	Total	
Aden	13	-	13	126	-	2 180	1 882	4 062				4 062	13	13	-	248	274	157
Lahej	3	-	3	15	-	169	166	335				335	3	1	-	39	43	
Hadramaut	7	-	7	50	-	838	777	1 619				1 619	7	7	-	98	112	61
Abyan	7	-	7	43	-	652	675	1 327				1 327	7	7	110	180	304	87
Shabwa	5	-	5	20	-	364	306	671				671	5	-	-	18	23	18
Al-Maharah	4	-	4	10	-	206	251	457				457	4	-	-	26	30	5
Sanaa	4	11	15	8	27	116	110	226	384	252	636	862	13	2	3	64	82	35
Taizz	2	1	3	6	14	115	106	221	67	26	93	314	2	2	1	38	41	19
Hodeida	-	3	3	-	17				375	328	703	703	3	-	-	20	58	23
Total	162	15	55	278	58	4 640	4 273	8 918	826	606	1 432	10 350	57	32	114	731	932	440

Table 5

Development of number of students in the school years 1975/76-1988/89

Year	Number of students in basic and secondary education
1975/76	461 550
1979/80	725 864
1985/86	1 241 113
1986/87	1 349 281
1987/88	1 469 750
1988/89	1 962 000

Source: Educational Census, Ministry of Education, Sanaa.

Ratio of technical and vocational education to secondary education

Year	Number of students in technical and vocational education	Number of students in secondary education	
1975/76	2 425	15 817	1.5
1979/80	4 810	25 957	0.5
1985/86	6 694	55 389	0.1
1986/87	7 226	69 937	0.3
1987/88	8 542	80 231	0.6
1988/89	9 662	96 710	0.1

Source: Educational Census, Ministry of Education, Sanaa.

Table 6

Student enrolment at Sanaa University, by college and sex, academic year 1988/89

College	First		Second		Third		Fourth		Fifth		Sixth		Total		% of females in total
Medicine	162	260	66	77	25	25	45	16	14	11	13	10	325	490	44.38
Agriculture	11	143	7	128	2	123	4	113	-	-	-	-	24	506	4.53
Law	56	3 150	37	1 803	24	1 669	21	931	-	-	-	-	138	6 953	1.95
Arts	436	441	104	154	16	12	12	48	-	-	-	-	704	875	44.59
Science	133	354	52	154	81	117	83	163	-	-	-	-	212	568	27.18
Commerce and Economics	236	2 335	164	1 476	104	1 017	70	549	-	-	-	-	564	5 367	19.51
Engineering	58	582	20	335	15	93	4	38	1	17	-	-	97	958	9.19
Education	666	2 306	320	987	181	596	181	502	-	-	-	-	1 349	4 391	21.61
Total	1 747	9 481	770	5 104	448	3 061	430	2 360	15	28	13	10	3 013	2 044	13.07
% of total	15.56		13.11		12.77		15.12		34.88		56.5		13.07		-

Source: Annual Statistical Yearbook 1989, Central Statistics Bureau, Republic of Yemen.

Table 7

Student enrolment at Aden University, by college and sex, academic year 1988/89

College	First		Second		Third		Fourth year		Fifth year		Sixth year		Seventh year		Total		% of females in total
							Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	
Commerce	96	42	61	51	164	193	113	169	-	-	-	-	-	-	298	490	37.82
Agriculture	27	4	30	4	36	6	8	22	-	-	-	-	-	-	22	125	14.97
Engineering	27	16	22	12	46	9	21	53	30	71	-	-	-	-	88	340	26.83
Law	88	20	61	22	79	55	26	66	-	-	-	-	-	-	134	294	30.95
Medicine	45	25	11	26	25	44	21	28	18	38	9	35	22	18	185	310	46.84
Diploma			71	22	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	92	193	33.28
Bachelor's degree			109	138	300	142	242	277	-	-	-	-	-	-	734	819	47.26
Total			266	286	560	246	430	725	48	109	9	35	32	18	1 553	2 371	39.58
% of total			42.87		28.29		37.23		30.57		20.45		64		29.58		

Source: Annual Statistical Yearbook 1989, Central Statistics Bureau.

Table 8

Number of males and females at Sanaa University, academic year 1989/90

Sex	Yemini	Non-Yemeni	Total
Male	26 744	595	27 339
Female	4 354	308	4 562
Total	30 998	903	31 901

Source: Sanaa University, Technical Office, Directorate-General of Statistics, 1990.

The number of students enrolled at Aden University was 3,959, of whom 1,677 were female (42 per cent). Statistics for 1987/88.

Source: Aisha abd el-Aziz, Education and Employment of Women, General Association of Yemeni Women, Aden, 1989.

Table 9

Percentile distribution by profession, 1975 census

Profession	Per cent
Professionals and technicians	4.0
Management and managerial occupations	0.5
Clerks	1.1
Sales persons	4.7
Service personnel	4.8
Agricultural/animal husbandry workers	71.9
Production workers	12.4
Undetermined	1.6
Total	100.0

Source: Central Statistics Bureau, Ministry of Planning and Development.

Table 10

Labour force in 1988-1990

Year	Labour force	Total population
1988	2 580 476	10 007 827
1989	2 921 652	10 946 020
1990	2 965 000	11 280 080

Year	Total female labour force	Percentage of labour force
1988	683 779	26.4
1989	773 707	26.5
1990	785 185	26.5

Table 11

Rates of economic activity of the population by age group and sex, 1988

Age group	Males	Females
10-14	20.5	17.6
15-19	48.1	21.2
20-24	86.4	24.0
25-29	96.1	26.0
30-34	97.7	27.5
35-39	97.9	28.0
40-44	97.3	28.5
45-49	96.7	27.1
50-54	93.3	24.2
55-59	90.1	20.7
60-64	80.5	16.2
65-69	71.9	12.6
70+	41.2	5.4
Total	68.5	22.2

Source: Central Statistics Bureau, Ministry of Planning and Development, Sanaa.

Percentile distribution of workforce
by governorates and activity, 1973 census

Activity	Aden	Lahej	Abyan	Shabwa	Hadramaut	%
Agriculture and fishing	4.5	63.2	58.7	69.6	56.4	7.2
Mines, quarries	0.5	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.2	0.5
Manufacturing industries	11.4	1.9	2.7	2.4	4.9	2.1
Electricity, gas, water	2.6	0.5	0.2	0.2	0.8	0.2
Building, construction	2.7	3.2	7.2	2.7	8.10	7.0
Trade, restaurants	20.8	5.4	4.2	2.8	9.1	4.5
Transport, storage	13.4	2.2	1.4	2.0	4.8	4.4
Finance, financing	1.4	-	2.0	0.2	0.2	-
Personal services	39.6	20.8	20.9	16.8	12.6	7.2
Undetermined	3.1	2.5	2.2	0.9	2.8	1.1
	100	100	100	100	100	100

Table 12

Distribution of labour force geographically and by economic activity, 1975

Governorate	Agriculture and fishing	Mines, quarries	Manufacturing industries	Electricity, gas, water	Building, construction	Trade, restaurants	Transport, storage	Finance, financing	Personal services	Undetermined
Ibb	79.2	0.01	1.6	4.1	4.5	0.7	1.40	0.1	5.9	2.4
Al-Bagda	72.0	0.01	4.0	0.2	7.40	5.5	2.25	0.1	5.7	1.8
Hodeida	64.6	0.2	6.3	0.2	3.8	10.8	4.2	0.2	6.5	2.7
Al-Mahwit	88.8	0.00	1.0	0.02	1.5	2.7	0.50	0.01	5.0	0.5
Taizz	62.9	0.1	2.9	0.2	9.6	8.8	3.7	0.30	8.70	2.8
Hajjah	82.1	0.01	3.5	0.02	1.6	5.2	1.1	0.1	5.1	1.4
Dhamar	79.8	-	1.70	0.01	3.8	3.4	0.80	0.03	8.0	2.5
Saadah	90.8	-	1.6	0.03	1.50	2.8	0.7	0.02	1.9	0.6
Sanaa	69.8	0.01	2.4	0.02	5.3	5.4	1.6	0.20	12.7	2.2
Maarib	72.8	-	2.6	0.02	4.0	4.2	2.6	0.01	6.4	1.2
Total	73.6	0.1	2.0	0.1	4.7	6.1	2.2	0.2	7.6	2.4

Table 13

Major health indicators for years 1989/90/91
in the Republic of Yemen

Indicator	1989	Years (Estimated)
Number of hospitals	72	72
Number of beds	8 395	8 395
Number of health centres	94	94
Number of beds	1 921	1 921
Number of mother and child care	2	2
Number of beds	40	40
Total number of beds in health centres	10 356	10 356
Number of beds for every ten thousand	9.3	8.4
Number of clinics	296	296
Number of health units	811	818
Total number of doctors	2 573	2 663
Number of Yemeni doctors	1 794	1 884
Number of doctors for every ten thousand	2.3	2.2
Number of nurses	6 117	6 422
Number of nurses for every ten thousand	5.5	5.3

Table 14

Family planning in the southern governorates, Yemen, 1989

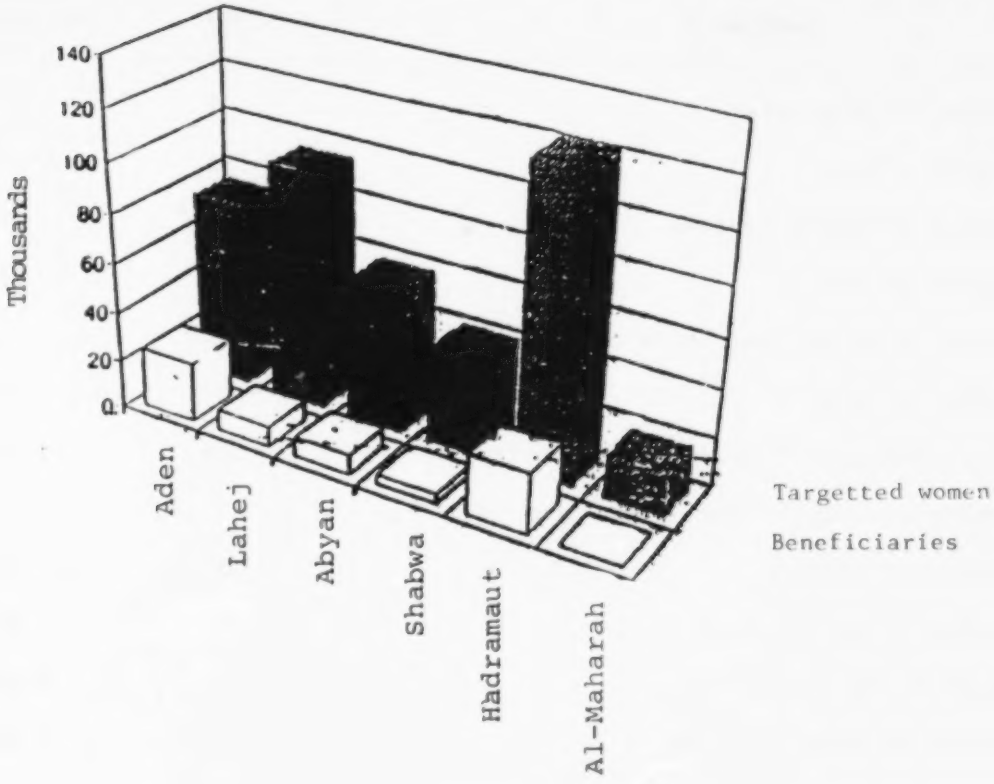

Table 15

Women in the 15-49 age group

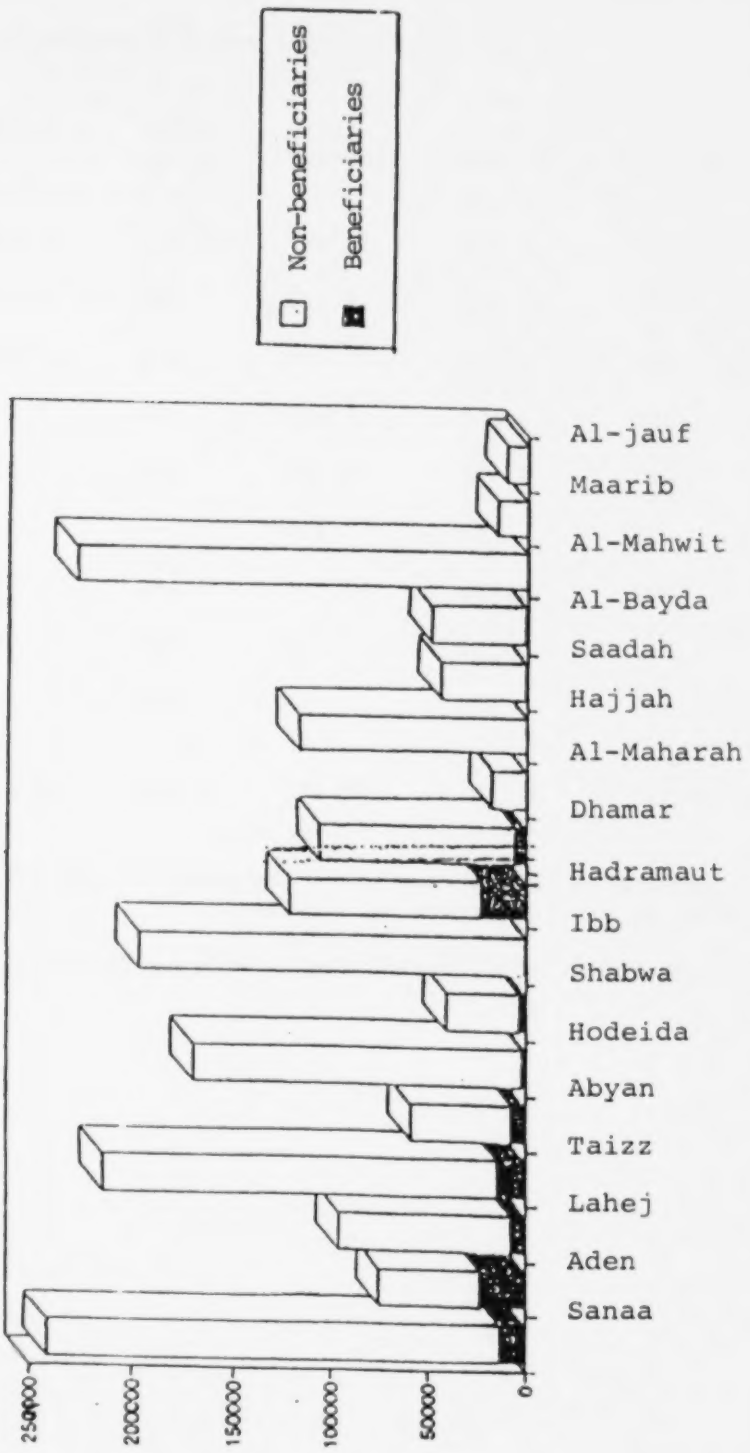

Table 16

Family planning services at health centres
of the Ministry of Health and Cooperative Councils

Governorates	Total new cases	Total increases	Total means delivered to beneficiaries			
			Pills (strips)	Loops (piece)	Condoms (piece)	Foaming pills (tubes)
Sanaa (19)	4 952	8 759	16 887	1 772	11 830	701
Taizz (2)	5 912	15 040	16 227	148	245	209
Dhamar (7)	1 602	6 088	2 057	918	17 392	186
Hodeida (8)	1 385	4 562	7 615	84	3 295	420
Saadah (1)	614	1 434	4 081	269	290	75
Hajjah (1)	31	43	214	-	-	-
Al-Bayda (1)	707	11 880	1 394	180	2 394	82
Ibb (1)	767	1 667	1 550	107	1 890	263
Gynaecologists	520	520	-	520	-	-
Total	16 490	39 301	52 425	3 999	27 436	2 036

Note: The numbers in parentheses after the names of the governorates indicate the number of centres providing services.

Source: Annual Report 1990, Yemeni Family Welfare Society, February 1991, Sanaa.

Table 17

Family planning services at health centres of the Ministry of Health and the Cooperative Councils

Name of centre Sanaa	Total new cases	Total increases	Total means delivered to beneficiaries: Pills (strips)	Loops (piece)	Condoms (piece)	Foaming pills (tubes)
1. Al-Farabi	239	454	529	109	390	400
2. Al-Tababari	135	233	286	23	100	240
3. Ibn Rushd	143	143	567	19	480	328
4. Ibn al-Nafis	252	547	694	86	1 285	1 380
5. Jabir Ibn Hayyan	120	250	525	41	533	700
6. Al-Zahrawi	246	518	541	102	220	480
7. Al-Bairouni	287	529	816	61	408	820
8. Ibn Sina	218	380	479	50	579	600
9. Al-Zahrawy	112	168	375	20	1 195	860
10. Al-Tawhid	145	264	313	38	284	1 120
11. Ibn Haitham	76	160	235	24	315	420
12. Al-Safia (MCH)	148	255	598	1	220	720
13. Al-Baladiyat clinic	6	22	60	1	-	-
14. Al-Hamzi (MCH)	121	452	729	6	765	360
15. Al-Jaafariya	2	8	99	-	-	-
16. Al-Manakha	100	262	605	-	732	120
17. Kuwait General Hospital	505	505	2 670	505	-	-
18. Al-Sabeen (maternity)	898	1 386	2 879	293	1 630	1 380
19. Al-Thawra General Hospital	1 118	1 919	3 887	394	2 694	4 100
Total	4 952	8 759	16 887	1 773	11 830	14 028

Table 18

Health indicators in Yemen in 1990

Governorate	Population 1990	Hospitals No.	Hospitals Beds	1991 projected	Health centres with beds No.	Health centres with beds Beds	Health centres with beds 1991 projected
Sanaa	1 894 954	10	1 863	-	18	358	-
Aden	436 500	6	1 466	100	3	34	-
Taizz	641 815	9	1 244	-	5	110	-
Lahej	531 743	8	625	100	6	180	-
Ibb	1 425 282	6	278	-	8	160	-
Abyan	352 972	6	433	-	3	55	-
Hodeida	1 172 498	4	405	-	4	220	-
Shabwa	225 642	4	255	-	3	50	-
Hajjah	807 950	3	116	-	13	203	-
Hadramaut	677 298	7	605	-	9	190	-
Dhamar	771 551	1	150	-	7	140	-
Al-Maharah	99 719	1	88	-	3	70	-
Al-Bayda	228 229	2	85	-	1	30	-
Al-Mahwit	290 976	1	35	-	4	40	-
Saada	252 656	2	117	-	4	92	-
Maarib	108 084	3	95	-	3	37	-
Al-Jauf	47 020	-	-	-	3	53	-
	11 182 090	74	8 044		96	1 931	-

1. The decline in hospital beds in Hodeida hospitals is due to repairs being carried out at Al-alfi Hospital.

2. Population figures for 1990 do not include returning expatriates whose distribution by governorate is not known, but who exceed one million.